

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request formal examination of this application.

Claims 1-22 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer thereof, and claims 23-50 have been added to the application. Because the amendments do not add new matter, entry thereof by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request formal examination of this application in view of the above amendments and remarks. This application is now in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding the pending application or this Preliminary Amendment, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 202-672-5538.

Respectfully submitted,

Date January 10, 2001

By Michele M. Simkin

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.